

HEALTH

Viral Hepatitis A and B

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. Several different viruses cause viral hepatitis. They are named the hepatitis A, B, C, D and E viruses. All of these viruses cause acute or short-term viral hepatitis. The hepatitis B, C and D viruses can also cause chronic hepatitis, in which the infection is prolonged, sometimes lifelong.

1. Hepatitis A

Disease Spread

Primarily through food or water contaminated by feces from an infected person.

People at Risk

International travelers, people living in areas where hepatitis A outbreaks are common, people living with or having sex with an infected person and injection drug users.

Prevention and Treatment

The hepatitis A vaccine, avoiding tap water when traveling internationally and practicing good hygiene and sanitation. Hepatitis A usually resolves on its own over several weeks.

2. Hepatitis B

Disease Spread

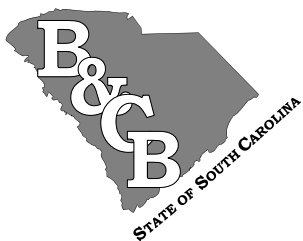
Through contact with infected blood, through sex with an infected person and from mother to child during childbirth.

People at Risk

Injection drug users, people who have sex with an infected person, people who live with an infected person, infants born to infected mothers, health care workers and hemodialysis patients.

Prevention and Treatment

The hepatitis B vaccine is used for prevention. The treatment consists of drugs with alpha interferon or lamivudine.



STATE HEALTH PLAN PREVENTION PARTNERS
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